the increased commission due to price hike and increased expenses;

(b) whether Government have assured the dealers to increase the commission on each price hike; and

(c) what steps have been taken to avoid the unnecessary harassment and by what time the report of the High Level Committee set up for the prupose is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Dealers commission is revised based on a formula whenever there is a revision in the administered price of MS & HSD. A Committee constituted is examining the demands raised by the Dealers for revision in the commission.

Non Payment of Dues to ONGC

1970. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the press news-item captioned, "Non payment of dues by OCC, IOC to hit ONGC" as reported in the Statesman dated 4.7.97;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC is in the grip of liquidity crunch due to non payment of dues to them by the oil companies;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to direct oil companies to make payment to ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The overdue portion of the outstanding of ONGC from oil companies/OCC was around Rs. 2654 crores as on 31.3.97. This has resulted in liquidity crunch for ONGC necessitating it to resort to short term borrowings from the domestic market. The Government has been exploring various options to contain the deficit in the pool account to provide relief to the oil companies.

ADB projects in Gujarat

1971. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has earmarked 820 million dollars for projects in Gujarat during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of the projects to be taken up under the ADB programme in Gujarat;

(c) whether it is a fact that ADB has inter-alia included the laying of 1000 kms. LPG transmission pipeline from North-West Gujarat to Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) For the State of Gujarat, the ADB has proposed the following projects from public sector windows over the medium term:

(1) Gujarat Power Sector Development Programme US $ 300 million

(2) Gujarat Infrastructure facility US $ 150 million ADB has also approved a loan of US $ 250 million for the Gujarat public Sector Resource Management Programme.

(c) and (d) The ADB has included LPG transmission pipeline project for possible assistance, the details of which have not been finalised.